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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 12 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 12 March 2012 in reaction to the so-called parliamentary elections recently held in Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 12 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Georgian Foreign Ministry in reaction to the so-called parliamentary elections recently held in Abkhazia, Georgia

On 10 March 2012, Russian occupation forces and their proxy regimes held so-called "parliamentary elections" in the occupied region of Abkhazia. This unlawful act is yet another unsuccessful attempt to cover up the ethnic cleansing of hundreds of thousands of people with elements of supposedly "democratic" governance.

The crimes committed by the Russian occupants and their proxy regimes over the past 20 years have fundamentally distorted the demography of both the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions. Internally displaced persons from the occupied region of Abkhazia are being prevented from exercising their right to return to their homes. The human rights of those who managed to remain are being violated by the occupation forces on a daily basis, and international observers are blocked from travelling to the occupied region to report on these abuses as well as on the ongoing illegal militarization of the region.

The so-called "parliamentary elections", illegally held in the occupied region of Abkhazia, are further proof of a complete disregard for internationally accepted norms and principles.

The Georgian Foreign Ministry calls upon the international community to properly assess this further farce conducted in Abkhazia and to continue to pressure Russia to fulfil its international obligations, including the provisions of the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement.

Tbilisi, 12 March 2012